

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for automatically installing a software image onto an
2 information handling system, the method comprising:
3 reading an order for an information handling system;
4 reading an image manifest;
5 installing an image specified by the image manifest onto the information
6 handing system as installed software; and
7 automatically configuring the installed software.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring includes:
2 executing order specific customizations.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining whether all base components of the order are present in the
3 image.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining whether any subtract components are present in the image; and,
3 if any subtract components are present, then removing the subtract
4 components from the installed software while automatically
5 configuring the installed software.

- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining whether any add components are present in the image; and,
3 if any add components are present, then installing the add components from
4 the specified image contents.

- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the automatically configuring is performed at a manufacturing site.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the automatically configuring is performed at a customer site.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the automatically configuring enables the installing to be performed in a
3 networkless factory environment.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the automatically configuring enables loading of an image directly from a non-
3 volatile media.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the automatically configuring enables a customized to order process to be
3 performed in a remote manufacturing facility.

1 11. A apparatus for automatically installing a software image onto an
2 information handling apparatus, the apparatus comprising:
3 means for reading an order for an information handling system;
4 means for reading an image manifest;
5 means for installing an image specified by the image manifest onto the
6 information handing system as installed software; and
7 means for automatically configuring the installed software.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for configuring
2 includes:
3 means for executing order specific customizations.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:
2 means for determining whether all base components of the order are present in
3 the image.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:
2 means for determining whether any subtract components are present in the
3 image; and,

4 means for removing the subtract components from the installed software while
5 automatically configuring the installed software when any subtract
6 components are present.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:
2 means for determining whether any add components are present in the image;
3 and,
4 means for installing the add components from the specified image contents
5 when any add components are present.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
2 the means for automatically configuring is located at a manufacturing site.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
2 the means for automatically configuring stored within the information
3 handling system and is executed at a customer site.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
2 the means for automatically configuring enables the installing to be performed
3 in a networkless factory environment.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
2 the means for automatically configuring enables loading of an image directly
3 from a non-volatile media.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
2 the automatically configuring enables a customized to order process to be
3 performed in a remote manufacturing facility.

1 21. A system for automatically installing a software image onto an
2 information handling system, the system comprising:
3 a reading module, the reading module reading an order for an information
4 handling system;

5 an image manifest module, the image manifest module reading an image
6 manifest;
7 an installing module, the installing module installing an image specified by the
8 image manifest onto the information handing system as installed
9 software; and
10 a configuring module, the configuring module automatically configuring the
11 installed software.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the configuring module includes:
2 an executing module, the executing module executing order specific
3 customizations.

1 23. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a base component determining module, the base component determining
3 module determining whether all base components of the order are
4 present in the image.

1 24. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a subtract component determining module, the subtract component
3 determining module determining whether any subtract components are
4 present in the image; and,
5 a removing module, the removing module removing the subtract components
6 from the installed software while automatically configuring the
7 installed software when any subtract components are present.

1 25. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 an add component determining module, the add component determining
3 module determining whether any add components are present in the
4 image; and,
5 an installing module, the installing module installing the add components from
6 the specified image contents when any add components are present.

1 26. The system of claim 21, wherein:
2 the configuring module is located at a manufacturing site.

1 27. The system of claim 21, wherein:
2 the configuring module is stored within the information handling system and
3 is executed at a customer site.

1 28. The system of claim 21, wherein:
2 the configuring module enables the installing to be performed in a networkless
3 factory environment.

1 29. The system of claim 21, wherein:
2 the configuring module enables loading of an image directly from a non-
3 volatile media.

1 30. The system of claim 21, wherein:
2 the configuring module enables a customized to order process to be performed
3 in a remote manufacturing facility.